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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/876,374	06/06/2001	John G.K. Williams	020031-000810US	8989

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EXAMINER

LU, FRANK WEI MIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1634

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/876374

Applicant(s)

John Williams, et al

Examiner

Frank Lu

Group Art Unit

1634

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1 7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☒ Other Detailed Action

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Location of Application

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 1634.

Claim Numbers

2. Note that original application was filed with claims 1-37 and 40-50. Since there is no claims 38 and 39, claims 40-50 have been renumbered, starting at 38, as accorded under Rule 1.126.

Election/Restriction

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 1-21, drawn to a charge-switch nucleotide phosphate probe, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3.
 - II. Claims 22-34, drawn to a method for sequencing a labeled nucleotide phosphate having a detectable moiety from a released charged detectable moiety in a sample stream, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
 - III. Claims 35 and 36, drawn to an analytical method for separating an intact NP probe, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
 - IV. Claims 37-48, drawn to a method for sequencing a target nucleic acid with a polymerase, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

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4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I and II are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to a product and an unrelated method. As a result, different and distinct searches will have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group II such as step (c) of claim 22 is not required for Group I.

Groups I and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product such as a hybridization assay.

Groups I and IV are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to a product and an unrelated method. As a result, different and distinct searches will have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group IV such as step (c) of claim 37 is not required for Group I.

Groups II and III are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to methods which comprise different method steps. As a result, different and distinct searches will have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group III such as enzymatic cleavage of an intact NP probe in claim 35 is not required for Group II.

Groups II and IV are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to methods which comprise different method steps. As a result, different and distinct searches will

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have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group IV such as sequencing a target nucleic acid in claim 37 is not required for Group II.

Groups III and IV are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to methods which comprise different method steps. As a result, different and distinct searches will have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group IV such as sequencing a target nucleic acid in claim 37 is not required for Group III.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CAR § 1.6(d)). The CM Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Lu, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 305-1270. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached on (703) 308-1152.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the patent Analyst of the Art Unit, Ms. Chantae Dessau, whose telephone number is (703) 605-1237.



Frank Lu
July 8, 2002